

Carmel, NY – Congressman John Hall (NY-19) called on the Postmaster General of United States Postal Service (USPS) to reconsider his decision to close the Bellvale (NY) Post Office in a letter sent today. The present post office has lost its lease, and although several village businesses are willing to host the facility, the USPS has begun to decide whether to consider a new location or not. Rep. Hall said in his letter that without a post office an unacceptable burden would be placed on the residents of this hamlet.

“Losing their post office would mean many Bellvale residents would have to travel over dangerous terrain during winter months to get their mail, while others would lose their zip codes,” said Rep. Hall. “I call upon the U.S. Postal Service to reconsider this ill advised plan to close the post office and work with the concerned residents to find a suitable solution to this problem.”

A text of Rep. Hall’s letter is below.

The Bellvale post office, presently sited at 268 State Route 17A, has been serving this community for 160 years. Unfortunately, the current facility can no longer accommodate the post office, and it will be forced to leave its current location at the end of the month.

In the meantime, at least two businesses in close proximity of the current Bellvale location have offered to lease space the USPS, and community residents have indicated that either alternative location would be acceptable to them. Despite the looming deadline in terms of the lease, though, and favorable financial considerations offered by the possible alternatives, U.S. postal officials have not agreed to relocate the facility as of yet.

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*Dear Postmaster General*

*I am writing to urge you to preserve postal facilities for residents in the hamlet of Bellvale, New York. As you may know, the United States Postal Service has operated a community post office from within a privately-owned facility for more than 160 years. Unfortunately, the current facility, located at 268 State Route 17A in Bellvale, can no longer accommodate the post office, and the U.S.P.S will be forced to leave the facility at the end of this month.*

*Several small businesses in close proximity to the current Bellvale location have offered to lease space to the U.S.P.S. However, despite the looming deadline, local U.S.P.S. officials have not agreed to relocate to another facility. Many Bellvale residents are worried that the U.S.P.S is planning to shut down the postal facility within this hamlet.*

*Leaving the residents of Bellvale without a post office is unacceptable. I urge you to work with Bellvale residents to find an acceptable alternative before the Postal Service's lease is up at the end of August.*

*I am committed to working with all parties to bring this matter to a satisfactory conclusion for Bellvale residents.*

*Sincerely,*

*John Hall*